AMERICAN CRANBERRY VIBURNUM CARE

LIGHT

American cranberry viburnum is labeled Viburnum trilobum or V. opulus var. americanum. Grow it in sun to partial shade with room for arching branches. Redwing and Wentworth are named selections, and their mature dimensions should guide spacing rather than the nursery container size.

WATER

Water the original root ball and nearby soil deeply when they begin to dry. New shrubs need regular checks during the first seasons, even when established plants tolerate some drought. Continue checking during dry autumn weather. Avoid frequent shallow sprinkling and prolonged waterlogging.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant in moist, well-drained soil with the root flare near the surface. A light mulch helps conserve moisture, but keep it away from the stems. The shrub can suit the edge of a damp garden. Do not bury the crown or assume a container can remain submerged.

FEEDING

Base feeding on a soil test and the shrub's vigor. Heavy nitrogen can produce leafy growth without improving flowering or fruit set. Check moisture, drainage, and root competition before increasing fertilizer. Keep any recommended fertilizer off the trunk and follow the product's labeled rate.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune selectively after flowering if shaping is necessary, keeping enough flowering wood for the red fruit display. Remove broken or dead stems promptly. Inspect leaves for severe chewing and check young twigs when recurring damage suggests viburnum leaf beetle. Identify the cause before applying a control product.

HELPFUL TIPS

This is a viburnum, not a true cranberry crop. Confirm the American form from the botanical label because European cranberry viburnum looks similar and has different fruit qualities and ecological concerns. Compatible, genetically different plants can improve fruiting. Do not harvest fruit from an unidentified ornamental shrub.